(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) by when it would restart; and

(e) the expected date of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. During the last three years (2000-2003), the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has spent a sum of Rs. 11.48 lakh and, for the current year 2003-2004, it has earmarked Rs. 15.00 lakh for conservation of the Siva Temple, Bhojpur, District Raisen, M.P.

(b) to (e) While the work on the temple has not been suspended but is continuing, the mound that stands near the south-western corner of the temple is a part of the ancient ramp for carrying the building material and the same will remain as such. The existing top portion of temple has been structurally strengthened.

Taking over of management of Shrines

1002. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take over the management of all the Shrines and religious places.

(b) whether the matter has been discussed with the States; and

(c) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

The Minister of Tourism and Culture had written to all the Chief Ministers on 5.12.2002 to consider enacting suitable legislation on the model Jammu and Kashmir Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act, 1988 "with a view to similarly improving the management and administration of the important temples and places of worship situated in their States."

A conference of State Culture Ministers and State Culture Secretaries was held on 13th May, 2003 when the above need was

further emphasized keeping in mind the need to improve facilities at such places from the point of view of tourism, culture and civic cleanliness.

World Heritage status to historical paintings of Bhimbaithaka caves in M.P.

†1003. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO, is considering to grant of World Heritage status to historical paintings in Bhimbaithaka caves near Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Organisation has agreed to give financial assistance for the purpose and if so, the extent of assistance proposed to be provided; and

(d) whether Government are also considering to give financial assistance and if so, the extent of assistance proposed to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The World Heritage Committee its 27th session, held at Paris between 30th June and 5th July 2003, has approved the inscription of the Rock Shelters of Bhimbetha, near Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, on the World Heritage list as proposed by India for 2003.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A sum of Rs. 112 lakhs has been earmarked for conservation, excavation and area development.

Development of tourism in upper Assam

1004. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken any comprehensive view to develop tourism in upper Assam as it contains the Kajiranga

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.